

From the Army Acquisition Executive

The LCMCs — Providing Better Capabilities and Support to Our Soldiers



It is imperative that we continue to provide products to the Soldier faster, make good products even better, minimize life-cycle costs and enhance the synergy and effectiveness of our Army's acquisition, logistics and technology community. It is our job to work constantly to provide much better capability to the Soldier as quickly as possible. As you will read in this edition, that is what our Life Cycle Management Commands (LCMCs) are all about. We are making significant progress.

Our Soldiers continue to serve magnificently as we enter the fifth year of the global war on terrorism. In Iraq and Afghanistan, they are consistently defeating the enemy. They have created the conditions to permit free, democratic elections and to reconstruct vital infrastructure and institutions. Our Soldiers are making enormous contributions and sacrifices, and our Nation must remain committed to them by providing the capabilities and support they need to succeed in their mission.

Protecting our Soldiers continues to be our highest priority. With great support from Congress, the Department of Defense and the President, we have accomplished the following:

- The Army, along with our industry partners, has fielded more than 750,000 sets of Individual Body Armor worldwide. Fielding to deployed Soldiers is complete.
- The Army, with industry, is fielding an enhanced version of Small Arms Protective Inserts that will provide increased ballistic protection to our Soldiers.
- The Army, with industry, has provided more than 36,000 armored wheeled vehicles to the area of operations, more

than 11,000 Up-Armored Humvees and more than 25,000 trucks with factory-designed and manufactured armor kits.

- Through the Rapid Fielding Initiative, the Army has issued 600,000 sets of commercial-off-the-shelf technology to provide Soldiers increased survivability (Advanced Combat Helmet), lethality (improved carbine optics) and mobility (kneepads) capabilities. This program provides 19 force protection items for our Soldiers and other items that are critical to their success.
- The Army also has the Rapid Equipping Force (REF) to better protect our Soldiers. REF works in partnership with industry, academic and military leaders to support Soldier needs as quickly as possible.
- The Army has fielded roughly 1,400 Strykers to newly formed Brigade Combat Teams and deployed them in support of *Operations Enduring* and *Iraqi Freedom*. Strykers continue to maintain a superb operational ready rate. More than 5 million miles have been driven by the first two deployed Stryker Brigades.

It is important that we maintain full funding support for equipment modernization programs to accelerate state-of-the-art force protection systems and weapons to our Soldiers. That is one of the chief reasons why successful transformation of the business end of the Army is essential to the long-term health of the Army and its Soldiers. With initiatives similar to our LCMCs, we are achieving greater efficiencies, improving quality, decreasing cycle time and reducing cost.

Keep up the good work!

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